



Written
Testimony

Submitted

By

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Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs Public Hearing
February 10, 2011

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony today on H.B. 5058 under consideration by the Committee.

HB 5058 An Act College Tuition and Fee Waivers for Veterans

The University stands ready to assist veterans who have bravely defended our country. While the University feels that our veterans should not have to worry about how to finance their college expenses, we are concerned about the fiscal impact of this legislation. Currently, in the Post 9/11 G.I. bill Chapter 33 benefits cover summer programs. The Summer Programs Office at the University is self-supporting. Instructors are paid based upon enrollment, waiving tuition for veterans would create direct costs to the Summer Programs Office. To the extent that benefits are not covered by the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill this waiver would create a cost to the University.

During the past two years, UConn estimates it has paid \$2,999,357 for FY 2009 and \$2,258,566 for FY 2010 for veteran's waivers and fees for which we receive no state funds. This legislation expands the waiver to cover summer course fees that it would be an additional expense. If this legislation is adopted, we urge you to provide the University with the funding to cover additional costs.